



US Army Corps of Engineers

Norfolk District

Media Advisory

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Project Update: Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot

Suffolk, VA – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues ordnance and environmental investigations at the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot site under the Formerly Used Defense Site Program. The following is a summary of the latest developments.

Offshore Area

The Corps has submitted a Record of Decision to the Environmental Protection Agency for no further action for the Offshore Area. This brings the Corps one step closer to removing the James and Nansemond Rivers from the list of sites/areas potentially affected by the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot. The Offshore Area includes three miles of river from the James River near the I-664 bridge to the Nansemond River near the GE facility from the Mean Low Water line out as far as one nautical mile from shore. The Corps received no comments on their proposed plan during a public comment period that ran from December 4, 2003 through January 4, 2004. A public meeting was held on December 4 to discuss the studies and the findings. The study, conducted by SAIC, indicated that contaminants originating from the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) are not present in the offshore sediments at concentrations that would pose a risk to marine life, animals, or humans. The Corps tested river sediments for FNOD-related contaminants of concern such as explosives (such as TNT), metals (such as Lead and Arsenic), Pesticides (such as Dieldrin), and Volatile Organic Compounds (such as TCE – a contaminant associated with solvents).

Main Burning Ground Area

On February 25, the Corps completed the initial testing of approximately 20 World War II era gas mask filters that were unearthed by the Corps' ordnance contractor in December. Results of the recent testing, conducted by the U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical and Biological Center from Aberdeen, Maryland, indicate that no chemical warfare materials are present. The Corps tested the filters for chemical warfare materials to determine how to properly dispose of them. No chemical warfare materials have ever been detected on the former depot property. This type of testing is a standard safety precaution taken by the Army to determine whether the filters were exposed to chemical warfare agents during combat or testing at another location.

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In the last two months, 2 more ordnance items were removed by the Corps' ordnance experts from the Main Burning Ground site along with 222 lbs of ordnance scrap, and 19,494 lbs of non-ordnance scrap. To date, approximately 466 ordnance items, 122,646 lbs of ordnance scrap, 752,869 lbs of non-ordnance related scrap, and construction debris have been recovered from this site since the Corps initiated its investigations there in 1996. The vast majority of ordnance items recovered from the site have been inert. Recovered scrap has been shipped offsite to a scrap dealer for disposal.

Next Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

The Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) project will hold its next meeting on Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Bon Secours Health Center at Harbour View located at 5818 Harbour View Boulevard in Suffolk in the second floor conference room. RAB meetings are open to the public. All interested parties are encouraged to attend. Meeting Topics will include:

- Track K and Pesticide Storage Area update
- Ordnance removal update
- Land Use Controls Agreements with the City & affected Landowners
- Landowner updates
- Marine Corps Power Plant update

Background on the Restoration Advisory Board

The Restoration Advisory Board, established in 1997, is a communications forum that enables the public to provide input on cleanup efforts. It is comprised of a diverse array of stakeholders including community members, local business representatives, local and state officials, a TCC representative and environmental staff from the Corps, VDEQ and EPA.

Background on the Project

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Norfolk District is continuing its environmental investigations and cleanup activities in the vicinity of TCC's Portsmouth campus as part of the Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) program following EPA's Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) guidelines.

For more information please contact David Wigle, FNOD Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, at (757) 441-7507.

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